Circular Letter No. 421.

April 23, 1907.

To Superintendents.

Gentlemen:--

The rapid and wide-spread increase in grade teaching in English is the most noteworthy recent development in our work. In many places, however, the results have not been such as were hoped for. Among the causes which have contributed to make work unsatisfactory are the placing of inexperienced American teachers in charge of grades they could not control, the frequent changes in American teachers, carrying on English grade work in towns where adequate supervision was impossible, putting high grades in charge of Porto Rican teachers who could not successfully teach them in English, and lack of comprehension of the difficulties of the work on the part of teachers and Superintendents. All these and many other difficulties must be taken into consideration in making plans for English grade work for the coming year. We want to extend our English grade but we do not wish to approve any plan which we know will give unsatisfactory results.

Immediately upon receipt of this letter kindly let us know just what you plan to do in English in each of your towns next year.

Include in your report for each municipality:

1. Number of teachers holding English Graded Certificate.

2. Number of English Graded teachers you will need for next year.

3. Number of candidates whom you wish to present for examination.

4. Whether you have one or more American teachers this year and how many you desire for next year and how they are to be employed, whether in grade work, in supervisory and practice-class work, or as Special English teachers.

5. To what grades you intend to assign your English Graded and American teachers.

6. Any further facts, comments or suggestions you deem important.

In answering No. 1 if there is any discrepancy between the number of teachers who hold the certificate and the number teaching as English Graded teachers, please mention the fact. In answering No. 2 give the number of these teachers you wish allotted for the coming year. Remember in giving the answer to No. 3 that only the teachers recommended by you will be admitted to the examination. These should, in all but very exceptional cases, be teachers who are enrolled in the Advanced Group and preferably those who have been doing at least some teaching in English, but the mere fact that a teacher has been enrolled in the Advanced Group does not give him a right to take the Examination.

Immediately after receiving in this office all the replies to the letter a schedule giving the dates and places of the examination for the English Graded Certificate will be sent out together with information concerning it.

Respectfully,

ROLAND P. FALKNER
Commissioner of Education